FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

CONTENTS

South Asia

Vol VIII No 006 *9 January 1985*

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW i

AFGHANISTAN

Delegations Arrive for PDPA Anniversary ..... C 1
Soviet Forces Said Preparing 'Major Assault' *[London]* ..... C 1
BAKHTAR: U.S. Organizing Contras-Afghan Force ..... C 1
Security Forces Victorious in Herat, Laghman ..... C 2
Bus Bombing Perpetrator Sentenced to Death ..... C 2

INDIA

Delhi Protests Sri Lankan Attack on Fishermen ..... E 1
Helicopters Fire on Boat ..... E 1
Increased Naval Surveillance Urged ..... E 1
Union Government Reorganizes Ministries ..... E 1
60 Arrested in Connection With November Riots ..... E 1
Home Minister Urges Safe Return of Sikh Families ..... E 2
Former Sikh Minister on Solving Punjab Problem ..... E 2
Akali Dal Unit Welcomes Initiative on Punjab ..... E 2
Gandhi Appoints Delegate to Afghan Party Meeting ..... E 2
Fencing of Border With Bangladesh To Resume ..... E 2
Official Sees Leap in Nuclear Power Generation ..... E 2
National Income Increases by 8.5 Percent ..... E 3

PAKISTAN

Afghan Charge of 28 Dec Border Violation Denied ..... F 1
Romanian Joint Ministerial Commission Meets ..... F 1
11,000 Soviet Troops Said Deployed in DRA ..... F 1

OTHER COUNTRIES

SRI LANKA

Jayewardene Criticizes Bandaranaike Statements ..... G 1
AFP: Naval Officer Denies Indian Waters Intrusion ..... G 1
Inquiry Ordered Into Catholic Church Attack ..... G 2
Government To Buy Modern Radar for Surveillance ..... G 2

IRAN

President Says War With Iraq Not in 'Lull' ..... I 1
Khamene'i Confident of Triumph Over Iraq ..... I 1
Hashemi-Rafsanjani Addresses Guards Commanders ..... I 1
Envoy Conveys Al-Qadhdhafi Message to Rafsanjani ..... I 2
Majlis Approves Transportation Pact With Syria ..... I 2
Armed Forces Joint Staff Communique No 1,966 ..... I 2
UN Team Resumes Investigations in Khuzestan ..... I 3
Guards Corps Recalls Reservists for Exercises ..... I 3
Militants Kill Iraqi Government Officials ..... I 3

FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

9 JANUARY 1985

Lebanon

Israeli Air Force planes successfully raided a terrorist base in the Al-Biqa' area and all returned safely, Jerusalem radio announced on 9 January. However, the planes were "intercepted by intensive ground fire," according to the Voice of Lebanon radio.

Earlier, implementation of the security plan for the coastal road and al-Kharrub area got under way with the deployment of two Internal Security Force units in Iqlim al-Kharrub while another unit began to bulldoze the earth barrier on the highway in Al-Damur, Beirut radio reported. The Progressive Socialist Party no longer has roadblocks on the coastal road, which must be open for the national resistance forces because Israel intends to remain in the south, PSP leader Walid Junblatt declared in remarks cited by Voice of the Mountain radio. However, according to Radio Free Lebanon, Junblatt maintained that while "little concessions" would be made on the coastal road plan, the PSP would never give up Al-Damur and Al-Na'imah. Moreover, he urged that the PSP and the Amal movement unite in the cause of overthrowing the Lebanese regime.

As for IDF withdrawal negotiations, President Amin Al-Jumayyil discussed ways to overcome difficulties in the suspended Al-Naqurah talks in a telephone conversation with the UN secretary general, Beirut radio reported, adding that the UN leader promised to send his political affairs assistant to Lebanon to work on the issue. Earlier, Jerusalem radio predicted that expected stepped-up UN contacts have a good chance of success, and that they will result in a distinction being made between the issues of UNIFIL and IDF deployment. Since the Israeli defense establishment does not consider the talks at an end, another round may start next week, according to Jerusalem television. Israel's Prime Minister's Office and defense quarters understand the need to change the IDF deployment and now must convince the Likud ministers of this, the television asserted, noting that Radio Free Lebanon announced that Lebanon has proposed that the talks be renewed.

Israeli Airlift of Ethiopian Jews

No economic problem or domestic, geographical, or political obstacles can stop or postpone the rescue of Ethiopian Jews, President Shim'on Peres asserted to the Knesset in a statement broadcast on Jerusalem radio.

Jordan

USSR Arms Deal — On the basis of "current realities," arms relations with the Soviet Union will continue to develop because Moscow does not impose political conditions before making a weapons deal, Amman's *AL-RA'Y* stated. The United States' recent warning of the consequences of the Jordanian-Soviet air defense system agreement emanated from an "arrogant and stupid mentality," the paper charged, going on to express respect for the "clean Soviet hand which is extended in friendship."

Terrorism, Security — As for last week's assassination of PLO Executive Committee member Fahd al-Qawasimi in Amman, sources cited by Dubayy's *AL-BAYAN* disclosed that the culprits were arrested on 7 January and are under "intense interrogation." Security forces arrested two other men who pursued the deputy PNC chairman after Al-Qawasimi's funeral, the paper added.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

The Iraqi Air Force launched three successful raids against maritime targets near Khark Island on 8 January, according to a military statement broadcast on Voice of the Masses radio. Citing an AP report, Tehran radio noted that Iraq "claimed to have attacked one oil tanker" in the Gulf.

Pakistan, Afghanistan

Pakistan rejected the "totally false and baseless" DRA charge that Pakistani militiamen entered Paktia Province with an armed group on 28 December, stating that Pakistani Armed Forces have never violated DRA territorial boundaries, Karachi radio reported. Last week, the mujahidin caused heavy damage in an attack on the Interior Ministry building in Kabul, according to Afghan sources cited by IRNA. Moreover, the mujahidin blew up two oil pipelines in Herat Province, the sources claimed, adding that Soviet forces recently shot 20 residents of Herat for supporting the mujahidin.

Mojahedin Attack Ministry of Interior in Kabul ..... I 3
KUNA: Revolution Guards Killed in Kordestan ..... I 3
Clandestine: Regime's Policy of Terrorism Assailed *[National Voice of Iran]* ..... I 4
Tehran Radio Comments on State of Economy ..... I 4

Delegations Arrive for PDPA Anniversary

LD082137 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 8 Jan 85

[Text] Delegations of a number of friendly and fraternal parties arrived today in Kabul to take part in the ceremony marking the 20th anniversary of the PDPA.

BAKHTAR reports that the following delegations arrived today:

The CPSU delegation led by Inamdzhan Buzrukovich Usmankhodzhayev, first secretary of Uzbek SSR Communist Party Central Committee;

the delegation of India's National Congress Party led by Bali Ram Bhagat, secretary and chairman for external relations of India's National Congress Party;

the delegation of Vietnam's Communist Party led by Nguyen Thanh Binh, secretary of the Vietnamese Communist Party Central Committee;

the delegation of the Communist Party of Cuba led by Julian Rizo Alvarez, member of the Cuban Communist Party Central Committee Secretariat;

the delegation of the Socialist Arab Ba'th Party of Syria led by ('Abd Hilal), member of the Socialist Arab Ba'th Party of Syria;

the PZPR delegation led by Stanislaw Opalko, member of the PZPR Central Committee Politburo;

the delegation of the Communist Party of Romania [RCP] led by Ilie Verdet, member of the Executive Political Committee and secretary of the RCP Central Committee;

the delegation of Bulgarian Communist Party [BCP], led by Emil Khristov, secretary of the BCP Central Committee;

the delegation of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party, [MPRP] led by Mangaljabyn Dash, secretary of MPRP Central Committee;

the delegation of the Korean Workers Party led by Yang Hyong-sop, member of the Korean Workers Party Central Committee and chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea;

the delegation of the SED led by Wolfgang Beyreuther, member of SED Central Committee, chairman of the Afghan-GDR Friendship Society and representative of the GDR Parliament;

the delegation of Lao People's Revolutionary Party led by Saman Vignaket, secretary of this party's Central Committee;

the delegation of the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party led by Men Saman, deputy head of the External Affairs Commission of this party's Central Committee;

the delegation of the Yemeni Socialist Party led by Sultan Muhammad al-Dawsh, member of the party's Central Committee and secretary general of the Confederation of PDRY Trade Unions;

the delegation of the Workers' Party of Ethiopia led by Nesibu Taye, member of the party's Central Committee and ambassador of Ethiopia in Moscow;

the delegation of Communist Party of India, (Marxist) led by E.M.S. Namboodiripad, secretary general of this party's Central Committee;

the delegation of Iranian Tudeh Party;

the delegation of Iranian People's Feda'i-yen;

the delegation of the Communist Party of India, led by (Moqeem Farouqi), member of this party's National Assembly;

the delegation of Syrian Communist Party led by (Ramoshi Khofera) member of this party's Central Committee Politburo;

the delegation of the Communist Party of Germany led by Hans-Juergen (Hang), member of this party's leadership;

the delegation of the Communist Party of Saudi Arabia led by Ahmad Musa, secretary general of the Saudi Communist Party Central Committee;

the delegation of the Sandinista National Liberation Front, led by (Bayar Dosalimoron);

the delegation of the Danish Communist Party, led by Margit Hansen;

the delegation of the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola-Labor Party; led by (Pedro Ka'ela).

The above delegations from the friendly countries were welcomed at Kabul airport by Saleh Mohammad Ziray, member of the Politburo and secretary of the PDPA Central Committee; and Mahmud Barialay, candidate member of the Politburo and secretary in charge of the PDPA Central Committee's International Relations Department.

Soviet Forces Said Preparing 'Major Assault'

TA081615 London BBC World Service in English 1600 GMT 8 Jan 85

[Text] Western diplomats in India and Pakistan say that several thousand Soviet troops in Afghanistan have been sent to regions bordering Iran and Pakistar, where Afghan guerrillas have established strongholds. The diplomats say it appears that the Soviet forces are preparing for a major assault on the rebels. The guerrillas are said to have suffered setbacks in recent fighting with Soviet and Afghan Government troops in the region between the capital Kabul and the Pakistan border, and also in the Panjsher valley to the north.

BAKHTAR: U.S. Organizing Contras-Afghan Force

LD090606 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0433 GMT 9 Jan 85

[Text] Kabul, January 8, BAKHTAR — A political observer of BAKHTAR writes:

The Reagan administration has staged another stratagem spearheaded at waging undeclared wars against the developing countries in the form of international criminal syndicate.

To organise criminal syndicate, the Reagan administratiion has paved the grounds for the ever further visits of the Afghan counter-revolutionary elements to Latin America. Several such visits have been organized in 1984 and the visit of the Afghan counter-revolutionary elements to Honduras constitutes one of such visits. A seminar was arranged in Honduras aimed at exchanging of terroristic experiences between the Afghan counter-revolutionary elements and Contras.

It is noteworthy (?that) Reagan calls the bands "freedom fighters".

The USA envisages to organize from the combination of the Afghan counter-revolution and the Contras a foreign contingent of Contras-Afghan to be used at the service of CIA in various parts of the world aimed at launching terroristic and destructive activities. These thugs are employed against the DRA which has scored valuable socio-economic and cultural transformations, thanks to the April revolution.

As Babrak Karmal the leader of Afghanistan has promised Afghans and announced to the world the goal of the revolutionary party and state of the DRA is to enlighten and educate the whole population of a prosperous Afghanistan. The process is vigorously forging ahead in spite of the undeclared war of imperialism against the DRA.

Washington and its accomplices strive to curb the revolutionary processes in the liberated countries by their mercenaries. The obvious aim of the USA in creating problems among the developing countries is that it strives to ensure its vital interests in all countries of the world through the undeclared wars aimed at impeding the real progress of developing countries including the DRA.

Security Forces Victorious in Herat, Laghman

LD081727 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 8 Jan 85

[Text] A source in the country's security forces has told the BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY that as a result of operatons in the region of Herat and Laghman provinces, 13 rebels were crushed and their weapons destroyed.

Bus Bombing Perpetrator Sentenced to Death

LD081729 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 8 Jan 85

[Text] A member of the Jami'at-e Eslami band, a professional criminal and murderer, who on 3 June 1984 martyred 12 people and injured 26 others by exploding a bomb on a bus, was sentenced to death in an open session of the DRA Special Revolutionary Court today.

This professional murderer, Mohammad Jan, the son of Abdol Qader, an inhabitant of the Hashmat Khan hill area of the eighth ward of Kabul city, had openly confessed during the investigation to causing the bus explosion which martyred a number of innocent compatriots, distributing shabnamas [night letters], and other counterrevolutionary and inhuman activities.

Once again, in front of a judicial panel of the Special Revolutionary Court and the audience of this open session, he confessed to his inhuman crimes and offenses and expressed repentance.

A BAKHTAR correspondent reports that the judicial panel of the Special Revolutionary Court, considering the crimes and civil status of the accused, sentenced this professional murderer to death in accordance with DRA laws and revolutionary legality.

The decision of the court will be applicable after approval by the DRA Revolutionary Council Presidium in accordance with Article 58 of the DRA Basic Principles.

Delhi Protests Sri Lankan Attack on Fishermen

BK081358 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 8 Jan 85

[Text] New Delhi has received a report that the Sri Lanka Navy attacked Indian fishing boats off Dhanushkodi in the Indian territorial waters yesterday night in which two Indian fishermen were killed. The acting high commissioner of Sri Lanka in New Delhi was summoned to the Ministry of External Affairs this afternoon and a strong protest was lodged. India's deep shock and concern at this unprovoked killing of innocent Indian fishermen inside the Indian waters by Sri Lanka Navy was conveyed to him.

Helicopters Fire on Boat

BK090312 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 9 Jan 85

[Text] According to agency reports, two Sri Lanka Air Force helicopters opened fire on an Indian fishing vessel yesterday. The helicopters were patrolling in an area between north Sri Lanka and India.

As already reported, India has lodged a strong protest with Sri Lanka over the unprovoked killing of two Indian fishermen by its Navy. A report received by New Delhi said that the killing took place inside Indian territorial waters off Dhanushkodi.

Meanwhile, a group of 36 Sri Lanka Tamils, who fled in a mechanized boat to escape persecution by the security personnel, has landed at the Nagapattinam port in Tamil Nadu.

Increased Naval Surveillance Urged

BK081607 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 8 Jan 85

[Text] A UNITED NEWS OF INDIA report says that 10 fishermen, who went out to sea on Saturday in two boats, have not yet returned. The agency also said that tension prevailed in Rameswaram and Pamban with thousands of fishermen demanding protection in the wake of the killing. The agitated fishermen reportedly removed fish plates on the rail tracks between Pamban bridge and Pamban station, disrupting train services.

The Tamil Nadu Fisheries minister, Mr Kalimani, urged the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, to strengthen naval surveillance near Rameswaram in view of the incident, and also to protect the lives of Indian fishermen. The Tamil Nadu government has sanctioned 2,000 rupees each to the families of the two fishermen.

Meanwhile, the secretary general of the Tamil United Liberation Front, Mr Amirthalingam, has urged the Indian Government to take immediate steps to stop the massacre of innocent Tamils in the northern and eastern parts of Sri Lanka. Talking to newsmen in Madras today, he alleged that Tamils are being killed indiscriminately in Mannar, Vivuniya, Mullaittivu and Trincomalee.

Union Government Reorganizes Ministries

BK081633 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 8 Jan 85

[Text] Several ministries and departments of the union government have been reorganized. According to a notification issued by the president, Giani Zail Singh, the Ministry of Agriculture will now be called the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. It will have departments of agriculture and cooperation, agricultural research and education and rural development under it.

The Ministry of Commerce will be known as the Ministry of Commerce and Supply. Departments of commerce, supply, and textiles have been included in the reorganized format.

In the Ministry of Communications, the Department of Posts and Telegraph has been bifurcated.

The reorganized Ministry of Defense will have under it the departments of defense, defense production and supplies and defense research and development.

The Ministry of Education and Culture will be known as the Ministry of Education.

The Ministry of Energy has been rechristened as the Ministry of Environment and Forest. It will incorporate the departments of environment and forest, and wildlife.

The Ministry of Labor has been divested of the Department of Rehabilitation.

The Ministry of Planning will now have the departments of planning and statistics.

The Ministry of Science and Technology will incorporate the departments of science and technology, scientific and industrial research and nonconventional energy sources.

The Ministry of Social Welfare will be known as the Ministry of Social and Women's Welfare.

The new Ministry of Steel and Mines will have coal under it, with separate departments for steel, mines and coal.

The Department of Sports will now be known as the Department of Youth Affairs and Sports.

60 Arrested in Connection With November Riots

BK071616 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 7 Jan 85

[Text] More than 60 persons suspected to be involved in the November riots [following Mrs Gandhi's assassination] have been arrested by the Delhi police during the special drive launched since Saturday last. All of them have been remanded either to police or judicial custody. The major crackdown on the suspects was conducted after the review of investigations conducted by the special investigation cell constituted by the police

commissioner, Mr S.S. Jog. A police handout says that the drive to arrest more suspects will continue on the basis of evidence collected against them.

Home Minister Urges Safe Return of Sikh Families
BK080405 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 8 Jan 85

[Text] The Home minister, Mr S.B. Chavan, has urged the chief ministers of northern states to ensure that Sikh families feel safe in their areas. He also asked them to speed up the return of those families who had moved to Punjab from various states following the disturbances in November last year. He was addressing a meeting in New Delhi to review the law and order situation. The meeting was attended by the chief ministers of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Bihar, the lieutenant governor, and the chief executive councillor of Delhi.

An official spokesman said a large number of Sikh families have already started returning to their homes. It may be recalled that the prime minister has already said that the government would like to get the cooperation of the Akali Dal in solving the problem. In an interview with the *TIME* magazine, Mr Rajiv Gandhi said they should categorically say that they would operate within the constitution and dissociate themselves from the extremists.

Former Sikh Minister on Solving Punjab Problem
BK080407 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 8 Jan 85

[Text] The former External Affairs minister, Mr Swaran Singh, has said the formation of the 3-member ministerial panel (?on) Punjab affairs and the prime minister's assurance to tackle the Punjab problem on a priority basis are steps in the right direction and will have a good impact on the people. In an interview telecast by Jullundur Doordarshan [television] last night, he underlined the need to create an atmosphere of confidence and security for the Sikhs living outside Punjab.

Akali Dal Unit Welcomes Initiative on Punjab
BK080055 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 7 Jan 85

[Text] The Delhi unit of the Akali Dal-Longowal has welcomed the initiative taken by the prime minister to solve the Punjab problem. In a statement in New Delhi today, its press secretary, Bakshi Jagdev Singh, hoped that an honorable solution to the problem would be found.

Gandhi Appoints Delegate to Afghan Party Meeting
BK081639 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 8 Jan 85

[Text] Mr B.R. Bhagat, member of Parliament and chairman of Foreign Affairs Department of the All-India Committee Congress-I [AICCI], has been deputed by the Congress president, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, to represent the Indian National Congress to the congress of the Workers Party of Afghanistan, beginning on Thursday. This has been stated in an AICCI press release in New Delhi today.

Fencing of Border With Bangladesh To Resume
BK080057 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 7 Jan 85

[Text] The Assam chief minister, Mr Hiteswar Saikia, has expressed the hope that official level consultations might resume soon with the Assam agitation leaders to explore fresh grounds for talks on the foreign nationals issue. He was speaking to newsmen in New Delhi today after his discussions with the Home minister, Mr S.B. Chavan; the Defense minister, Mr Narasimha Rao; and senior officials of the Home Ministry. Mr Saikia said the meeting was of the view that fresh negotiations could be meaningful only if the agitation leaders are willing to modify their stand on the foreign nationals who came to the state between 1961 and 1971. He said they should do so in a spirit of give and take.

The Assam chief minister said that it was agreed at the meeting that the border fencing work which was suspended in April last year should resume soon. Mr Saikia said that the meeting felt that the elections to the Lok Sabha seats from Assam should be held as soon as possible. He said he would convey his impressions of today's meeting to the prime minister before leaving for Gauhati.

Official Sees Leap in Nuclear Power Generation
BK081246 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 8 Jan 85

[Text] The chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, Dr Raja Ramanna, has said that the country is poised for a big leap in nuclear power generation. The program for generating 10,000 megawatts of energy by the year 2000 is on the anvil. Speaking at Pune today, he said that realization of this program would go a long way in meeting the increasing energy demand of the country, for which the nuclear energy is the only viable and economic alternative.

Dr Raja Ramanna also said that in the field of plutonium fuel fabrication, the scientists at the Bhabha Atomic Research Center have already demonstrated the capability by fabricating the first fuel charge for the fast breeder test reactor at Kalpakkam, which is ready for criticality. He said the design work of the prototype fast breeder reactor has already started, and it is planned to be commissioned in the late nineties.

Dr Ramanna was inaugurating an international symposium to commemorate 50 years of the discovery of artificial radioactivity. About 250 scientists, including 40 from abroad, are taking part in the 5-day symposium, which has been jointly organized by the Department of Atomic Energy and the University of Pune.

National Income Increases by 8.5 Percent

BK061229 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 6 Jan 85

[Text] The real national income of the country is estimated to have increased significantly by about 8.5 percent durıg 1983-84. The rise in the previous year was only 1.7 percent. This has been stated in the Reserve Bank report on banking in India. It says the increase in the real national income was brought about mainly by the record increase in agricultural output. Industrial growth had shown only a moderate increase by 5.4 percent. This was lower than the target. The report says there was a relatively high growth of bank deposits. The aggregate deposits of scheduled commercial banks rose by about 9,800 crore rupees — that is, by a little over 18 percent.

On prices, however, the report says the situation continued to cause concern during the major part of 1983-84. Prices recorded a rise of 9.3 percent during the period.

Afghan Charge of 28 Dec Border Violation Denied

BK081600 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 8 Jan 85

[Text] Describing the charge as totally false and baseless, the Pakistani Government has rejected the Kabul authorities' allegation that on 28 December 50 Pakistani militiamen, along with a group of 250 armed persons, entered the Chamkani area of Paktia Province and fired at Nazar, Bangasht, and a border post, causing the deaths of several civilians and soldiers. Pakistan's rejection was handed to the Afghan charge d'affaires this afternoon. He was also told that Pakistani Armed Forces have never violated the territorial boundaries of Afghanistan.

The Kabul authorities, by intentionally leveling allegations, are trying to hold Pakistan responsible for incidents in Afghanistan and to shun their own responsibility.

Romanian Joint Ministerial Commission Meets

BK081238 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 8 Jan 85

[Text] The Pak-Romanian joint ministerial commission began its meeting in Islamabad today.

The Pakistani delegation is being led by the finance minister, Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan, and the Romanian delegation by its deputy prime minister, Mr Ion Nicolae.

A protocol is expected to be signed to open further avenues of fruitful cooperation between the two countries.

11,000 Soviet Troops Said Deployed in DRA

BK091033 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 9 Jan 85

[Text] In Afghanistan, about 11,000 Soviet troops are reported to have been deployed in the provinces of Herat, Paktia, Konarha, and Nangarhar in the battles against Afghan mujahidin.

Agencies quoting diplomats say at least 7,000 Soviet troops have been rushed to [words indistinct] Herat, and another 4,000 to the Nangarhar, Konarha, and Paktia areas.

Meanwhile, Kabul radio reported separate battles yesterday in Herat and Laghman Provinces.

SRI LANKA

Jayewardene Criticizes Bandaranaike Statements

BK081347 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1245 GMT 8 Jan 85

[Text] President Jayewardene has said that he does not intend calling a general election in the near future. He told the government parliamentary group meeting today that Mrs Sirimavo Bandaranaike was going round the country stating that a general election should be held if they were to solve the terrorist problem.

The president said he was surprised indeed that a senior politician like Mrs Bandaranaike does not know the purpose for which a general election is held. An election is held to choose an administration, be it for the country or a local authority. A parliamentary election is held to choose a government, the prime minister and members of parliament. A presidential election is held to elect an executive president. They have held several elections — a presidential election, a referendum, many parliamentary by-elections, an election to local authorities — where the people in no unmistakable [as heard] terms placed their trust in the government. The next general election is due in 1989. If Mrs Bandaranaike thought that holding of general election now would solve the terrorist problem, she was mistaken. Holding a premature election is at the discretion of the president and will not be held because Mrs Bandaranaike wanted an election.

President Jayewardene announced that the government would, however, continue to hold by-elections. They were unable to hold by-elections in the northern and eastern province electorates just now in view of the prevailing situation in those areas.

Mr Jayewardene pointed out that he had stated earlier that if they were to implement the proposals which emerged from the all party conference [APC], they would have to hold a general election or a referendum. Now that the government has decided not to implement the APC proposals, the necessity to hold a general election or a referendum did not arise. Besides, Mrs Bandaranaike was one who abhored election as was evident during the period she was in power. She did not want to resign in 1965, when she was defeated, and a former governor general asked her to do so and dissolve Parliament. She resigned only after she was informed that the Army would not give her protection if she stayed on in office. Mrs Bandaranaike also postponed the general election that was due in 1975 by 2 years.

The president further said that she did not even hold by-elections or polls to local authorities for many years. Therefore, Mr Jayewardene added that her past record showed that she was one who detested election.

AFP: Naval Officer Denies Indian Waters Intrusion

HK090824 Hong Kong AFP in English 0745 GMT 9 Jan 85

[By Neville de Silva]

[Text] Colombo, Jan 9 (AFP) — Indian charges that Sri Lankan naval vessels intruded into Indian waters and shot dead two fishermen Monday night have thrown a further chill over bilateral relations, observers said.

The Indian External Affairs Ministry yesterday summoned Sri Lanka's acting high commissioner in New Delhi and expressed "deep shock and concern" at what it called the "unprovoked killing of innocent Indian fishermen" off Dhanushkodi in Palk Bay.

But Sri Lankan National Security Minister Lalith Athulath mudali told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE today that there had been no such incident as far as he knew. "I have not received any report of such a shooting," he said.

The Sri Lankan Navy meanwhile said its boats were not in the area Monday night. Admiral Asoka de Silva made it clear that Sri Lankan naval vessels did not "intrude into Indian waters." He added: "We keep to our side of the waters."

Relations between New Delhi and Colombo have been strained in recent months as the two capitals traded charges and countercharges of violations of territorial waters, observers noted.

The narrow Palk Strait separating the two countries has become an area of tension since some Tamil separatists said to be operating from the neighbouring southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu announced plans late last year for an offensive to evict security forces from Tamil-dominated northern Sri Lanka.

Last November, authorities enacted new emergency laws declaring northern Sri Lanka's waters and the land immediately adjacent to them a prohibited zone.

The aim was to stop Tamil militants operating out of Tamil Nadu from staging attacks on security forces and state institutions in northern Sri Lanka. Security forces were ordered to shoot at any vessels found in the area if they failed to comply with orders.

Shortly afterwards, an Indian fishing trawler was sunk and its crew detained when the boat failed to stop when ordered while it was "well inside Sri Lanka territorial waters," according to Sri Lankan officials.

Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi then accused the Sri Lankan Navy of harassing Indian fishermen. Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Shahul Hameed replied that India had violated his country's territorial waters hundreds of times and said this had been brought to the attention of New Delhi.

Political analysts here attributed different motives for the latest Indian charge. The popular view here is that politicians in Tamil Nadu, where feeling runs high on behalf of Sri Lanka's Tamils, are trying to create incidents to prod New Delhi to act tough over this island nation's ethnic problem.

Tamil Nadu hardliners, who lost badly in the recent Indian general elections, are hoping that New Delhi will take a stronger stand against Colombo if Indian citizens are involved, the analysts said.

But said another analyst: "New Delhi wants to show that the pressure is coming from Tamil Nadu. But it is New Delhi that is pulling the strings and it would be simplistic to think otherwise."

Echoing the same view, another observer said the Indian naval presence in the Palk Strait would now increase. "There will be a show of Indian muscle. It is meant to frighten Colombo into resuming political talks with the Tamils on a settlement now that the proposals from the national conference have been dropped," he added.

He pointed out that leaders of the Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF), Sri Lanka's leading Tamil party, were due in New Delhi this week to brief Mr Gandhi on the Sri Lankan situation.

The Sri Lankan Government late last month abandoned a package of proposals to give greater autonomy to the Tamils and more representation to minority interests through a second legislative chamber.

The government said the proposals were dropped because they were rejected by the TULF.

Some militants among Sri Lanka's 2.5 million-strong Tamil minority are fighting a bloody campaign for a separate Tamil state in the north and east, where most of the country's Tamils live, on the grounds that they are discriminated against by the Sinhalese majority.

Inquiry Ordered Into Catholic Church Attack
HK080938 Hong Kong AFP in English 0917 GMT 8 Jan 85

[Text] Colombo, Jan 8 (AFP) — The Sri Lankan Government has ordered a top level police inquiry into the army shooting at a Catholic church where a parish priest is believed to have been killed along with nine others. National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE today that he had instructed the area police chief yesterday to investigate the incident which occurred Sunday in northwestern Vankalai.

Troops had surrounded the church following a tip-off that militant Tamil separatists were staying there. The firing began when a grenade was thrown at them, Mr. Athulathmudali said yesterday. He said eight separatists and a passer-by died, but church sources have said officials of the area Diocese of Jaffna believed the parish priest, Father Mary Batian, was dead and have asked for his body.

The criminal investigation department has taken over the inquiry, a high ranking police source told AFP today.

The Sri Lankan Bishop's Conference yesterday called for an immediate and impartial inquiry and called the incident an "unprovoked army attack on the church and its incumbent."

In a separate statement on the priest's "death," the bishop of Mannar, near where the attack occurred, said that the "Catholics of Mannar and I bemoan the cruel, inhumane and unthinkable act against a man of God."

The bishop of Mannar strongly protested at state media "beaming out false news" that arms and ammunition were found inside the church and that the church was being used as a base for attacks on the security forces.

The Ministry of State in a release said that five "terrorists" were captured and were being questioned.

It said that inside the church the security force found 56 sticks of dynamite, hand grenades, bullets and cartridges and "terrorist" literature.

Mr. Athulathmudali told AFP that the bishops conference had asked for an "impartial inquiry" in a public statement but nothing had been addressed to him.

He also said that the body of Fr. Bastian had not been found. One version of the incident held that Fr. Bastian had run away. Another version alleged that Fr. Bastian was shot by the army and his body removed from the scene.

A reliable source told AFP that Fr. Bastian was a "moderate" who had argued at a recent seminar that the Tamils should be reasonable and not "ask for the moon."

Government To Buy Modern Radar for Surveillance
BK061225 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 6 Jan 85

[Excerpt] The government has decided to purchase a modern radar machine at a cost of 2 billion rupees for use by security forces in surveillance zone. State Minister Anandatissa de Alwis told a public meeting at Boddelgoda yesterday that this machine would be capable of detecting any movement in the sea.

President Says War With Iraq Not in 'Lull'

LD081703 Tehran IRNA in English 1658 GMT 8 Jan 85

[Text] Tehran, 8 Jan, IRNA — The Iraq-Iran war is not in a lull, but in fact in a "judicious and calculated" stage to prepare the grounds for a decisive victory by the Islamic forces of Iran, President 'Ali Khamene'i said in an interview published Tuesday.

However, he said time in the present circumstances would be neither in favour of Iran nor Iraq.

In an interview with the daily *KEYHAN* published today, the president said "victory could sometimes be achieved with a single lightning attack and sometimes achieved by other means.

"Don't you think what you are seeing today is not a lull but a judicious and calculated move aimed at reaching certain victory?" he asked.

"Today time is not as crucial as three years ago. It is true that in such conditions time would never be in our favour but be sure that it isn't in favour of the enemy (Iraq) either."

Khamene'i, who is also the head of the Supreme Defence Council, added that the Iraqi forces were only "artful" in hiding behind barbed wires and bunkers.

"We want to throw our punch," at the enemy, he said but "should we throw this punch smartly or not? There are times when a calculated attack needs some amount of pause.

"In a war for victory, man should employ all necessary capabilities," he added.

He said Iraq's war against merchant ships in the Persian Gulf does not have any military value. With such attacks, Iraq wants to show its presence in the scene of the war.

"(Iraq) wants to pretend before her supporters that she still exists (as a power), but, in fact, this existence precisely means non-existence."

The Iraqi attacks in the Persian Gulf would not distract Iran from its military efforts on the ground, he said. "Insha-Allah, we would strike at sea and on the ground."

Khamene'i Confident of Triumph Over Iraq

LD081913 Tehran IRNA in English 1856 GMT 8 Jan 85

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 8, IRNA — Despite the assessments of the big powers, the Iraq-Iran war is not a war without a victor but rather one in which Iran would certainly triumph, President 'Ali Khamene'i said in an address today.

He said the conflict is a tug of war between Islam and blasphemy, which is destined to lead to the doom of the latter.

Speaking to visiting ulema, the personnel of the revolutionary institutions, workers and others from Qom, President Khamene'i said any conciliatory move by Iran in relation with the war would have grave consequences for the people of Iran. "It is not important if the war ends sooner or later, but inflicting the last blow against the aggressor enemy by the people of Iran, thats important," he said.

He also said the establishment of a society conceived with the dictates of Islam in Iran would inflict the hardest blow upon the world arrogant powers.

President Khamene'i was talking to the visiting group on the eve of the seventh anniversary of the uprising of the people in Qom in protest against a defamatorty article in the *ETTELA'AT* newspaper about Imam Khomeyni, nearly a year before the Islamic Revolution.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Addresses Guards Commanders

GF090600 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 9 Jan 85

[Text] According to our correspondents, the imam's representatives in the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC], accompanied by commanders of bases, battalions and armies, and a number of Corps central district officials met with the Majlis speaker and the imam's representative in the Supreme Defense Council yesterday afternoon.

During the meeting, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: Those who have entered the Corps have all taken this path to serve God and to carry out Islamic and humanitarian duties. Thus their level of purity and love of God is constantly increasing. He added: Since the early days I have been in contact with the Corps, from the commanders down to the ordinary members. I know that there are people in the Corps the likes of which are very rare. The Guards brothers managed to show their power of faith and purity in their battles against the Iraqis and domestic enemies while not becoming proud at any time. This is, of course, a holy gift for the brother Guards since there is a big chance that one may forget one's self at the time of victory.

The imam's representative in the Supreme Defense Council said in another part of his speech: The continuation of sacrifice in the Corps stems from the main cause of the Islamic Revolution. It is very clear that if one wishes to live with materialistic ideals it would not match the life of the IRGC members. We know people in the Corps today who have been simple corpsmen since the formation of the Corps. These are noble figures who are well aware of their position. Preparedness, sacrifice and a will to do God's work is obvious in them. There are many from their group who have become Majlis deputies, governors general or have been given other posts. However, they have kept their simple position. The living conditions of a corpsman today are comparable to those of a simple laborer: He does not have housing or other employment benefits and steps; there is no financial reward for them and only their daily needs are satisfied. The officials and people should not remain indifferent to such sacrifices. It is the duty of officials and planners of the Corps to pay attention to the other needs of the Corps brothers aside from their moral needs.

In his speech, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani noted the total mobilization and arming of the enemies of the Islamic Republic of Iran

and said: Today we need the great spirit and faith of the members of the Corps. Our enemies have been planning for centuries and have prepared themselves in every aspect. However, we face themonly with purity, faith and reliance on the Lord. In the Kheybar operations, in which Iraq had all those facilities, such as numerous bridges, chemical bombs and armored forces, they showed weakness against our Ground Forces. The forces of Islam, under the harshest conditions, showed their power in stopping and pushing the enemy back.

He added: Even though Iraq is insisting that it wants peace, it is still adventuresome. It hits ships, pollutes the environment, and renders international shipping lanes insecure while attacking innocent people in cities. Our enemy uses every means to deal blows against us. Its supporters are even lower and more criminal than the enemy. Opposing this enemy and its supporters who are armed with the most sophisticated weapons is not possible with materials or materialistic intentions; it is your faith and purity which has crippled them. Of course, materials must be secured to the extent possible.

Noting the issue of Lebanon, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: No one could imagine that Muslims could bring four large countries, which had attacked their country with naval forces and marines, to their knees in Lebanon. These four countries had actually invaded Lebanon and the Phalange were cooperating with them from within. The forces of the regime occupying Jerusalem had southern Lebanon under occupation. However, a group of faithful people carried out a great task in a fundamental offensive and forced them to flee in shame and disgrace. In the period that Israel has had southern Lebanon under occupation, it has had more losses than in the Arab-Israeli war.

The Islamic Revolution of 11 February, the crushing of the American myth, victory in war, opposition to efforts to hit ships and make the Persian Gulf insecure and the neutralization of all other plots, all stem from the infinite moral power of you zealots of Islam. Noting that the IRGC today has shown its power abroad, especially in Lebanon, as a result of training millions of people who long for a crusade, he added: Our factory workers, showing their eagerness to go to the fronts, today put pressure on their managers to be allowed to go. This is because all strata of our nation consider themselves partners in the war. It is not only the workers but students and government workers who also show great eagerness to go to the fronts. We don't know what to do with such a great deal of pure emotion. The fact that there are still so many volunteers so long after the war has started shows that not only are the people not tired but that fighting the enemy and martyrdom has become sweeter for them.

The Majlis speaker then noted that the Guards Corps has been rapidly expanding and growing at a time when it has lost much of its force at the fronts and said: If the Corps quickly wanted to have a comprehensive administration it would have had to work like other armies for at least 15 years. However, the Corps grew rapidly. Considering the war and other problems, we have to confess that the problems of the Corps have been far fewer than its successes. This is because of its healthy and correct personnel. When the body and mind are healthy, any problems will solve themselves.

The imam's representative in the Supreme Defense Council concluded his speech by expressing hope that the IRGC will reach the point where it will become a model for the armed forces of the Islamic countries as an eternal organization of the Islamic Revolution. It will become a guide for the armed forces of the Islamic countries with its iron discipline, clear management and organization based on both individual and group discipline.

Envoy Conveys Al-Qadhdhafi Message to Rafsanjani

LD091018 Tehran IRNA in English 0930 GMT 9 Jan 85

[Text] Tehran, Jan 9, IRNA — The special envoy of the Libyan leader, Colonel Al-Qadhdhafi, currently in Tehran, met and talked with Majlis Speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, here today.

During the meeting the Libyan official conveyed the message of Colonel Al-Qadhdhafi to Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani.

Majlis Approves Transportation Pact With Syria

LD081645 Tehran IRNA in English 1606 GMT 8 Jan 85

[Text] Tehran, Jan 8, IRNA — The Majlis approved a transport agreement with Syria and started deliberations over another with China, in an open session on Tuesday, chaired by Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Deputies also spoke about national and foreign issues. Commenting on the Iraqi imposed war, Tehran deputy Abbas Duzduzani said the war would remain the country's main concern and would be the central issue in policy making, planning and national budgeting.

He said "all national resources should be mobilized to increase the capacity of our Armed Forces."

The Majlis also ratified an Iran-Syrian agreement for road transport after hearing a report by the Majlis transport comission and subsequent deliberations.

Armed Forces Joint Staff Communique No 1,966

LD081632 Tehran IRNA in English 1535 GMT 8 Jan 85

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 8, IRNA — The Islamic combatants destroyed four group bunkers and three observation posts and killed five Iraqis in the western operational regions during the past 24 hours. Announcing this the Joint Staff Command Communique No. 1966 issued today further said that an Iraqi patrol group was forced to withdraw by the Islamic combatants in Sumar region, in the west.

In the northwestern fronts, the Islamic combatants zeroed in on the enemy's engineering equipment and infantry troops during the said period. Exchange of fire was more intense in Haj 'Umran region in the northwestern front.

The enemy's activities and movements were checked by the Islamic defenders at the Arvand River bank in southern Iran

smashing 10 weaponry and personnel bunkers and setting ablaze two drilling vehicles. Abadan was barraged by Iraqi long-range fire Monday as a result of which five houses and three shops were damaged. Also, fire broke out in one case, concluded the Joint Staff Command Communique.

UN Team Resumes Investigations in Khuzestan

LD081757 Tehran IRNA in English 1742 GMT 8 Jan 85

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Pr., Jan. 8, IRNA — A U.N. fact-finding delegation resumed its investigation on Iraqi attacks against villages in Khuzestan Province Tuesday, while witnessing an Iraqi aerial bombing.

The delegation visited the villages of Bardiyeh, Dehlaviyeh and Alaveneh where many residents were martyred and many more were wounded in Iraqi air attacks on Friday.

Members of the delegation took samples from the remains of the outer cases of the bombs and rockets dropped on the villages, took photographs of the damaged buildings, and talked to the survivors.

During its inspection of the village of Dehlaviyeh, the delegation saw Iraqi warplanes dropping bombs on the outskirts of the nearby border town of Bostan.

The governor of Dasht-e Azadegan District, Abdollah Tarvavi, told the U.N. officials that the Baghdad regime had used cluster bombs in its attacks, each with 250 kgs of explosive material.

In the village of Bardiyeh, one of the residents, said despite its avowed concern for humanity, the United Nations has not the least supported harmless civilians in Iran who have been targets of continued war crimes of the Baghdad regime.

The U.N. team visited hospitals in Susangerd and Ahvaz on the first day of its mission on Monday and spoke to doctors and some of the victims of the Iraqi attacks.

Guards Corps Recalls Reservists for Exercises

LD091301 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0730 GMT 9 Jan 85

[Text] The central region Guards Corps has asked all reserve personnel of (Meqdad) Division to report to regional resistance headquarters of (Meqdad) base at 1500 today to take part in the battle readiness exercise which will be held tomorrow in the designated area.

Militants Kill Iraqi Government Officials

LD081619 Tehran IRNA in English 1520 GMT 8 Jan 85

[Text] Tehran, Jan 8 IRNA — Muslim Iraqi revolutionaries have recently killed a number of government officials in the Irbil Province, according to Muslim militants in Iraq.

Sources speaking for mojahedin Muslim group in Iraq said the killed government officials were the commander of Irbil Battalion Isma'il Sharvi; a man responsible for shooting at students in Irbil University, Hamid Kachu; and a local official of the Ba'th Party, Mohammad 'Ali.

Meanwhile, according to other reports government troops have at least once stormed classes in Sulaymaniyah and Irbil Universities and arrested boy students for sending them to the battle-fronts. Other students reportedly boycotted classes as a sign of protest.

Mojahedin Attack Ministry of Interior in Kabul

LD081644 Tehran IRNA in English 1553 GMT 8 Jan 85

[Text] New Delhi, Jan. 8, IRNA — Afghan Muslim mojahedin attacked Kabul's Ministry of Interior last week heavily damaging the building, said reliable Afghan sources here but the number of casualties is yet unknown.

The attack took place despite security by elements by Afghan Minister of Interior, Brig. Sayed Mohammad Gulabzoy.

Reports reaching here from Kabul also say that Soviet troops ransack shops and trade centers after dark when martial law goes into effect, and later burn down buildings, and do not allow firemen to fight the blaze.

Last week, a number of shops in the Timor-Shahy neighbourhood burned for three days after being looted by Soviet troops.

Meanwhile, the mojahedin blew up two oil pipelines in the Herat Province last week, despite Soviet security arrangements and oil was reported to have been running lose for two days.

Twenty residents of Herat who were arrested recently by Soviet forces on charges of supporting Muslim revolutionaries were shot dead by the Kabul government without trial in the Takht-Safar District, the same sources said.

KUNA: Revolution Guards Killed in Kordestan

LD081726 Kuwait KUNA in English 602 GMT 8 Jan 85

[Text] Paris, Jan 8 (KUNA) — Some 139 Pasdarans, the Khomeyni regime's Revolutionary Guards, were killed or wounded in clashes between the Pasdarans and the Peshmargas of the People's Mojahedin in the Iranian Kordestan area, claimed a report released by the office of the People's Mojahedin of Iran.

Quoting the military command headquarters of the People's Mojahedin based in Iranian Kordestan, the report said that at least 75 Pasdarans were killed and 64 wounded in 21 clashes, defensive operations and assaults carried out by the Peshmargas on the Khomeyni regime's military bases in Iranian Kordestan, from 5 December 1984 till 5 January 1985.

The report further indicated that many military vehicles, single and collective emplacements and weapons and ammunitions of the Pasdarans were destroyed in those clashes which took place

in the regions around Sar Dasht, Baneh, Mahabad and northern Kordestan, and added that the Peshmargas of the people's Mojahedin suffered no casualities.

Clandestine: Regime's Policy of Terrorism Assailed

TA082016 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian 1730 GMT 8 Jan 85

[Unattributed commentary: "The Islamic Regime — The Source of Terrorism"]

[Text] Dear compatriots: The obstinacy and stubbornness of the warmongering Islamic rulers in prolonging the destructive U.S.-desired war, the pursuance of a policy of intervention in the internal affairs of neighboring countries, and the support for terrrorists in the region, have exposed this regime as an adherent of U.S. imperialism's terrorist policy toward the region. This condemned policy of the Islamic regime is evident in its cooperation with antipeople regimes, such as Ziaul Haq's in Pakistan, in its cowardly and treacherous interventions in the affairs of democratic Afghanistan, and in its adventures in the region.

Recently the *AL-MAJALIS* monthly, printed in Kuwait, published an article entitled "Iran — The Source of Terrorism," which exposed the terrorist policy of the Islamic regime ruling Iran by recounting the evidence. The article stressed that the Iranian regime's foreign policy is based on interference in the internal affairs of neighboring countries under the pretext of the need for so-called revolutionary changes in these countries. Iran's ruling circle pursues a policy of terrorism against countries that pursue national independence, that demand an end to the Iran-Iraq war, and that are not ready to obey Mr Khomeyni's hegemonistic and superstitious wishes.

The *Al-MAJALIS* monthly wrote that Iran's present ruling circle, by employing terrorism as a weapon in the implementation of its foreign policy, is trying to resolve points of dispute by means of the application of force. As an example, this monthly pointed out that by hijacking the Kuwaiti airliner, Tehran's regime tried to force Kuwait to abandon its policy connected with the peaceful resolution of the Iran-Iraq conflict.

Everyone is aware of the bitter fact that our homeland's people, despite their sacrifices and selflessness, and despite offering tens of thousands of martyrs for the victory of the popular revolution, have gained nothing from the revolution due to seizure of power by the superficial clergy. Mr Khomeyni reneged on all the golden promises he made to the people in the course of the revolution, and instead of prosperity, comfort, and social justice, he imposed a tyrannical fascist-theocratic government on the Iranian people.

The Kuwaiti monthly was aboslutely right when it wrote that despite the promises that Khomeyni and his followers made in the course of the so-called Islamic Revolution, today the Iranian people are living in the most difficult conditions. The peril of imprisonment and execution hangs over those who are not ready to adhere to Khomeyni's regime. In addition, thousands of Iranians have been killed and maimed in the course of the stupid war of fratricide.

Finally, the Kuwaiti monthly, *AL-MAJALIS*, reached the right conclusion that the themes of Mr Khomeyni's so-called Islamic Revolution have met with total failure, both within Iran and in the Islamic world, and that the Islamic rulers have disgraced Iran before the Muslims.

Yes, by pursuing their antipeople policies, the Islamic Republic's superficial and superstitious rulers, who entertain the thought of conquest, have damaged the prestige and reputation of the ancient country and people of Iran, and have used Islam as a means to justify their antipeople and terrorist acts. The blow that these gentlemen have dealt to Islam has, up to now, not been dealt by any force or power. It should be said, however, that in the view of the world's progressive people, the free Iranian people and their glorious popular revolution are separate from those elements who have seized power in the country, and who under the mask of Islam and the Islamic Revolution are implementing the same antipeople and dictatorial policy of the shah's oppressive regime. Our homeland's people condemn the domestic and foreign terrorist policy of the usurping Islamic rulers, and are struggling to achieve freedom, democracy, and social justice. One should not doubt that in this struggle, victory will belong to the proud Iranian people.

Tehran Radio Comments on State of Economy

GF081224 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 8 Jan 85

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. During a previous discussion on the subject of economic problems, shortcomings, and successes of our Islamic country, we spoke about issues after the victory of the Islamic Revolution in Iran while noting the economic situation of Iran during the criminal rule of the Pahlavi regime. We said that due to political reasons following the Islamic Revolution, apart from a series of proposed activities, there was no logical and calculated work carried out with respect to expanding the national economy. We also reviewed improvements in the fields of agriculture and industry and said that due to bills dealing with land problems that are pending approval, we were unable to obtain the necessary statistics in connection with agricultural products. We will now continue our previous discussion.

We were unable to increase production in the fields of agriculture and industry up to a level which would replace income from oil. Dependance on oil income still has not decreased. It is predicted that due to problems arising from the war, dependence on oil income will increase. Dependence on oil income from the sale of oil not only prevents us from reaching our holy goal of self-sufficiency and economic freedom, but considering the sensitive situation in the Persian Gulf and more importantly the fluctuations and changes in the international oil market, it will create a dangerous situation for us. Experience during the past two decades and particularly after the victory of the Islamic Revolution has proved that drawing up budgets based on income from oil is not the best thing to do. Most members of OPEC whose economies are generally dependent on oil exports have realized this fact. Experts believe that the noticable increase in the oil

prices to $34 or $37 per barrel was due to the Islamic Revolution. In connection with this, Western economists claimed that the recession in the Western economy resulted from the increase in oil prices. Therefore, the international oil market and oil prices are always in danger.

During 1983 and 1984 we witnessed how the world oppression, by using its pawns within and outside of OPEC, caused fluctuations in the international oil market and in one case it was able to obtain a $5 decrease in the price of oil. Taking all this into consideration, at present we can no longer depend on obtaining a set income from oil exports. Due to fluctuations in oil prices, the government cannot completely obtain its needed income from oil exports. Thus, basing the country's budget on oil income and establishing credits accordingly will not be without problems.

One of the most natural ways for a country to overcome this situation is to borrow [esteqraz] from its central bank or put pressure on its taxation system. Of course, the losses which will be caused to the economy of a country in using these methods cannot be ignored. Borrowing money from the central bank, considering the increase in the growth of money supply following the Islamic Revolution's victory, and pressure from this side on prices and inflation, no doubt will create a multitude of problems for the government in trying to control prices. Fortunately, in recent years the government has gained considerable success in controlling inflation and prices. Although the way to increase government income at present seems to be to export more oil, the best way is to increase production in the fields of agriculture and industry and bring about the government's total dependence on internal production.

In connection with the taxation system, apart from discussions currently in progress concerning the establishment of a healthy taxation system in the country among concerned parties, if the government could design a specific taxation system, it would greatly help to solve most problems. Apart from all these issues, even if we are successful in establishing a healthy and precise taxation system, the income from this source will only be effective as a side issue and can only secure part of the budget. Therefore, in order to draw up a definitive budget, dependence on oil exports, considering fluctuations in the international market, must be decreased. However, if the government does not wish to draw from the central bank or put pressure on the tax system to fill the void brought about by a decrease in oil exports, then the best route to take is to increase the gross national product.

In this field, agriculture as a main axis and industry must grow in parallel. This is an obvious fact, and different sectors of people are aware of it. However, why is it that up to now we have not been able to reach the desired production in these fields? We are bringing up the subject of less dependence on oil income at a time when, considering the situation of the imposed war, it is impossible to carry out. So what is the problem?

Prime Minister Musavi made a speech when the bill for the 1985 budget was presented to the Majlis. He said that the reigning government, since its assumption of responsibilities, has been faced with an extensive range of problems in social and economic fields, such as a war with a foreign enemy, battles with political opposition groups and domestic separatist movements, responsibility for the justified demands of people who suffered the pain of oppression for years and who consider the immediate solution to their problems to be in the hands of the government,and whose deputies gave 587 official reminders to the government during the second Majlis in only 49 sessions. This government has always been the target of justified or unjustified attacks. The entire Cabinet, while accepting the faults and the shortages that they themselves are always aware of, has on occasions been blamed without cause.

Engineer Musavi, the prime minister, then said: The approval of the major and fundamental proposals which have been presented to the Majlis will result in the government's success in carrying out its plans and programs. These proposals are: A tax correction bill; a foreign trade bill; a city land bill; a private sector bill; a general accounting bill; a bill to correct mining laws; a labor law bill; and a committee laws bill.

There are fundamental bills which we hope will be approved in cooperation with the government in the second term of the Majlis. They are: a land reform bill; a national employment bill; a bill on levels and methods of government and cooperative sectors activities; an administrative law bill; and a bill on payments.

We can conclude that oil cannot be a certain source of government income. The matter of taxes in this respect is also a side issue. In order to solve problems and increase the tolerance of the Islamic Republic of Iran against international powers, we must increase production in agriculture and industry. This is subject to the approval of fundamental bills by the Majlis and their immediate and logical implementation by the administrative branch.

We should not forget that the presence of a holy gift such as the glorious leader of the Islamic Revolution can, without a doubt, be of great help in these special circumstances in fundamentally solving the present problems through guidance and advice. The economic self-sufficiency of the country cannot be attained without the all-out crusade of the entire masses.